



Exploring the Copenhagen: State Underwater Archaeological Preserve

The **Copenhagen** was built in England in 1898 and was one of several single-screw steamships that became the pride of Glasgow's merchant fleet. Constructed for cargo capacity and strength with a double bottom, and powered by triple expansion steam engines, the ship was put into service under contracts across the Atlantic. Her career was cut short, on May 26, 1900, when she ran hard aground on a rocky ledge close to shore just south of Pompano Beach. She was carrying 4,940 tons of coal on a voyage from Philadelphia to Havana. Despite extensive salvage efforts, the ship could not be freed from the reef, although her cargo was saved. The **Copenhagen** remained visible above the water for years until WWII naval fighter pilots helped her to become part of the reef by using her for target practice.

Location

The wreck of the **Copenhagen** is located approximately 3.3 nautical miles south of Hillsboro Inlet just outside the second reef on the "Pompano Drop Off" adjacent to mooring buoys 3 and 4. Wreckage is scattered over an area of approximately 300 feet or more. The wreck lies with her bow pointed to the south and is approximately parallel to the reef. The depth varies from 16 to 31 feet, making it an ideal recreational dive spot.

LORAN Coordinates: 14269.7, 62103.7

GPS Coordinates: 26°12.349'N, 80°05.108'W

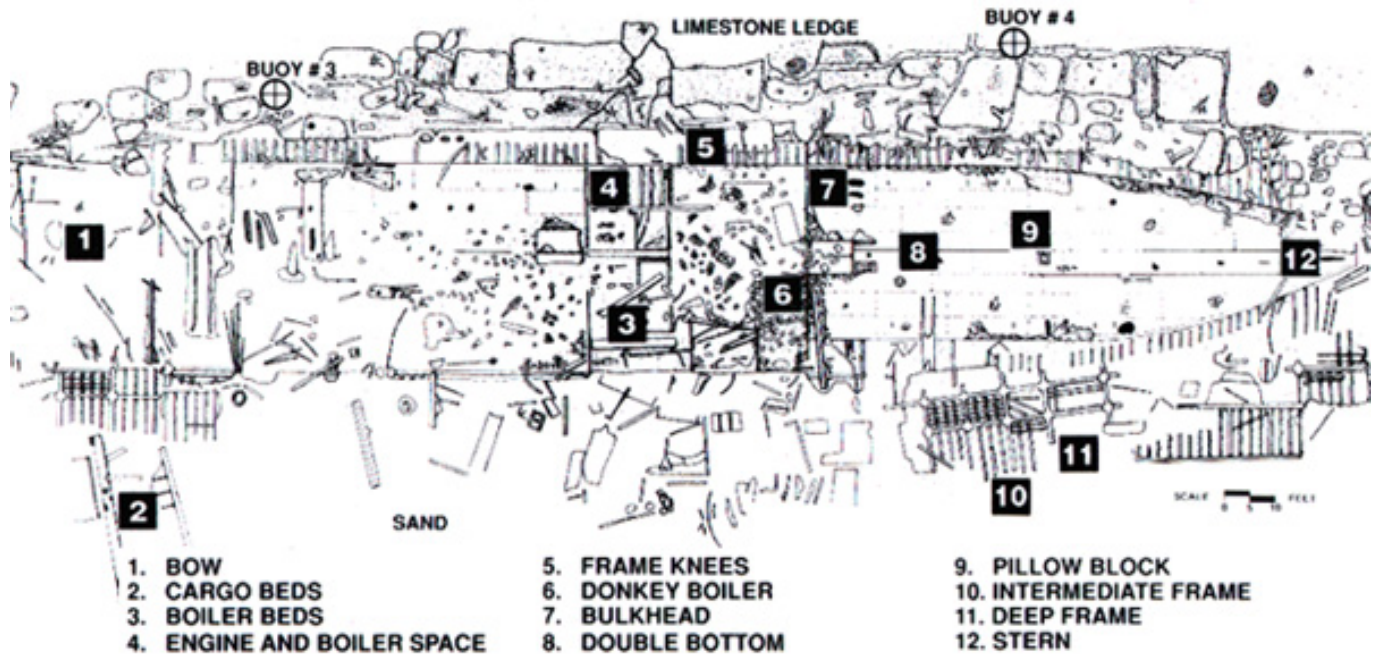
A Window To The Past...

Make history come alive! Experience merchant fleets of the past and an underwater magical adventure. The **Copenhagen** was rated at 3,279 tons and was originally 325 ft. in length, with a beam of 47 feet and a depth of hold of 26 feet. This steamship's underwater burial ground provides habitat for a myriad of marine life.

The View From Down Under

The **Copenhagen** provides an ideal haven for an abundance of marine life. Although much of the wreckage has been flattened over time, the frame and knees of the lower hull are readily apparent. The steel hull provides a substrate for hard and soft corals and multi-colored sponges. Juvenile reef fish and tropicals of many varieties dart in and out of the twisted structure, which serves as a sheltered nursery. Gorgonians and sea fans sway in the gentle surge along the length of the

ship. The pillow block which supported the propeller shaft is a focal point for curious parrotfish. The empty beds for the ship's two boilers house a population of damselfish and sergeant majors energetically defending their niche in the sunken wreck. Coal from the ship's bunkers, although camouflaged by marine growth, litters the sea bottom near the wreck. Small lumps of black anthracite are visible around the periphery of the wreckage.



An Underwater Preserve

The **Copenhagen** came to rest along a rocky ledge, made up of large limestone blocks divided by cracks and sand crevasses. After grounding, the ship listed to the port side; her starboard hull eventually collapsed onto the rocks and into crevasses, while the port side slumped onto the deeper sand bottom. Over the years, much of the hull has fallen apart and settled over this uneven terrain. The lower hull is still articulated, especially in the stern. Coal from the ship's bunkers and cargo, camouflaged by marine growth, litters the bottom near the wreck.

Today, much of the ship's structure has become part of the reef, and the wreckage provides an ideal haven for all kinds of marine life. Hard and soft corals and multicolored sponges thrive on the steel hull plates. Juvenile reef fish and tropicals dart in and out of the twisted structure, which serves as a sheltered nursery. Seafans sway in the gentle surge along the length of the ship. The pillow block that supported the propeller shaft is a focal point for curious parrot fish. Empty beds for the ship's two boilers today house a population of damsel fish and sergeant majors energetically defending their niche in the sunken wreck.

As with all other historical or archaeological sites on submerged bottomlands, the **Copenhagen** is protected by Florida laws forbidding the unauthorized disturbance, excavation or removal of artifacts. Please help keep the site intact for others and have a safe visit by observing the following rules:

- Please do not anchor on the site; tie your boat to the mooring buoys.
- If you are not using the buoys, anchor only in sand, as it is against Florida law to anchor in coral.
- Maneuver slowly in the area of buoys and watch for divers.
- Do not disturb or remove any coral on the reef.
- Use safe diving practices and display a diver's down flag.
- Divers should use caution and avoid sharp edges and rough surfaces. Beware of becoming entangled in stray fishing lines.
- Please do not spearfish, collect or harvest marine life on the wreck or within 500 feet.